WASHINGTON.

LABERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1863.

UNITY OF SPIRIT.

It is now many weeks ago that, in full view the defeats experienced by the Republican party in the last Fall elections, we thought it proper and timely to offer some observations on the perils of political re-actions. Our remarks were equally directed to those who profess themselves the "unquestioning" upholders of the present Administration and to those who avow themselves its determined opponents. For ourselves, prescribing as the rule of our conduct neither the servility which abjures the right of independent judgment nor the factious opposition which gives to party what is due to country, but striving, according to the best lights before us, to consult for the safety of the Republic in this day of its trial, we have deplored equally the causes and the results of these dissensions, which for a time seemed to threaten the Government with an incurable weakness, if not to inaugurate the reign of universal anarchy. It was under these apprehensions, and at a time when Republican crimination of all who dissented from certain peculiar views of military policy and social change was met with Democratic recrimination. imputing to the Administration and its friends more than blundering, because a wilful indifference to the public interests and to the Constitution that we thought it proper to life our voice in deprecation of political intolerance, alike on the one

"Whatever theory we may adopt with regard to the necessity or the origin of these political dissensions, it is none the less true that their existence and their perils cannot be denied or ignored. There is danger that the party in power may, by unwise and untimely measures, still further exacerbate the political situation; and there is danger that the party in opposition, by seizing on the errors, real or imputed, of the Administration, may push its hatility to particular men and measures beyond the we have, in their own interest, and, as we conceived in the intrest of the country, counselled the friends of the Admini-tration to practise moderation and pru-dence in adjusting their measures of public policy to the present exigencies of the land, we may now be per mitted, with equal carne to sa, to warn the aiversaries o the Administration, as far at least as our humble voice car hope to reach them, against transcending the limits of a loyal and a candid opposition. Opposition for the sake of opposition, if indefensible at all times, becomes more than ever out of place in the existing condition of the country. The oscillations of party, marking at each rise and fall of the pendulum a higher and wider sweep, may shake the stability of what yet remains of our political system, when the efforts of all should be zealously and unitedly bent to the reconstruction of the whole fabric in its ancient symmetry, so far as that may be possible after the tide of bloody war which has swept, and may continue to aweep,

side and on the other. In this spirit we wrote as

follows on the 11th of last December:

Our readers are aware that we have never com plained on our own account of any of the calumnies and misrepresentations which we have won for ourselves by our simple adherence to the Union and the Constitution, as well in evil as in good report, and as well under a Republican as a Democratic Administration. These calumnies and misrepresentations, whether inspired by the malice of one party or the other, come from a source so far beneath our notice in this day of high debate that we have rarely thought it necessary to turn sside from our public discussions for purposes of personal controversy, and least of all for the purpose of self-vindication. In our career as journalists. we have observed that a paper generally bears the character which its own columns give it, whether for intelligence, truth, or loyalty, rather than the character escribed to it by columns lacking the one or the other of these qualities.

But it cannot be denied that the spirit and temper of the political press in some parts of the loyal States portend any thing but harmony and union in support of the Government. On the one hand, it is common for a few insensate papers which profess to support the Administration, but who really signify their contempt for its intelligence some times by absurd censure and sometimes by absurd praise-it is common, we say, for such sheets to indulge in cheap invective against such of their contemporaries as do not always share their precise view of any Administration measure. On the other hand, we see opposition journals whose columns teem with the worst possible appreciations of every thing that is said or done in all departments of the Government under the present Administration

It is in the presence of such a state of affairs that we may be permitted to recall, alike for the benefit of the President's indiscreet friends and of his essiddiced opponents, the words uttered by him in his last annual message, when he said that "if there ever could be a proper time for mere catch arguments that time surely is not now. In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and in eternity."

It is very evident that no good can be done by seeking to stigmatize as "traitors" all who exercise their own intellects on public affairs by consulting for the welfare of the country rather than for the complacency of official incumbents. And it is equally evident that the advantages of legitimate discussion can be secured without suffering political debate to degenerate into the acrimony of a determined partisanship. When criticism on men or measures transcends the limits of justice or fairness, it never fails to react on the party in whose service it is enlisted, just as those who minister at the public altar only for the sake of burning incense beneath the nostrils of men in place, become, most of all, an offence to those whom they seek to propitiate.

There is one veteran journalist-we allude to Thurlow Weed-who, notwithstanding his retirement from the profession he so long adorned, still continues to give to his countrymen the benefit of his past experience and of his present observations. And it was for the sake of properly introducing the subjoined extracts from a recent letter under his hand that we have indulged in these preliminary reflections. Writing on this general topic, he holds the following language:

"Happily, the public mind is re-acting. A healthier tone is discernible. Ultraism subsides. Neither Opdyke, nor Field, nor Greeley thrust their abolitionism upon the nor Field, nor Greeley thrust their abolitionism upon the meeting at the Cooper Institute on Friday evening. The resolutions and the speeches were patrictic and sensible. Let this spiris he diffused among the people; let us hear dess of epithet and denunciation, and we may hope for a return of that union and devotion to the Government which, during the first year of the rebellion, sent half a million of gallant men, arrespective of party, to the field, the remains of one-third of whom are now fertilizing the soil they sought to rescue from rebellion. But if, for not

wearing an abolition livery, men are to be indiscriminately stigmauzed as 'cop; orbeads,' we are hopelessly divided, and our country irretrievably lost.

and our country irretrievably lest.

"Congress has armed the Government with all the powers that its exigencies required. The Administration is clothed with extraordinary financial and military authority. The Federal Government is now its own banker, and its armies are to be levied independent of State agencies. In the first year of the war our young men rushed voluntarily to the field, and our banks as voluntarily supplied the Government with ways and means. Mark the change, and read not the lesson it teaches carelessly. Onerous laws can Government with ways and means. Mark the change, and read not the lesson it teaches carelessly. Onerous laws can only be carried into effect 'with the consent of the governed.' Since the Congress was chosen by which the conscription law was enacted, there has been a political revolution in four of the largest States in the Union. There are causes for such re-action. Let those who are responsible for the country's welfare seek and profit by them.

"The compulsory laws of the last Congress if beneficially executed, must have the concurrence of the popular will. The public sentiment must approve them. This are

will. The public sentiment must approve them. This approval cannot be obtained by proscription and denunciation. Half a million of men will not again 'go to their graves like beds,' under the threats of political hyenes who remain at home howling. This, by the way, is a peculi-arity of abolition fanaticism. The 'one-idea men' do their utmost to aggravate the horrors of the war, but take precious care not to expose their own craven carcases. They are found, not with the

'Grappling vigor and rough frown of war,' but in the lecture rooms, upon rostrums, and in editoris chairs, babbling about 'negro regiments' that only have ac ideal existence, and hurling anathemas at those who fight for the Union. Take, for example, a clergyman who per petrates an annual anniversary oration in bonor of the 'Jerry Rescuers,' urging the farmers of Onondaga to de

in peaceful occupations.
"Our Government and Union, if dependent upon party "Our Government and Union, if dependent upon party, will surely perish. No such organization is strong enough to save either. And rulers and peoples should lose no time in accepting and realizing this truth. I care not what party prevails, or how elections result, if the 'Stars and Stripes are nailed to the mast head.' Loyalty to the Union, fidelity to its Government, are the only tests worth preserving. And when, in good faith, all true men rise to this measure of duty—brushing out of their way the network of party, forgotting that they were, under other circumstances. 'Anti-slavery' men, 'Americans,' 'Whigs,' 'Republicans,' or 'Democrats,' and remembering only that they are brothers banded together to uphold a Government and Union richly worth all the sacrifices of blood and treasure their preservation may cost—then, and only then, sure their preservation may cost—then, and only then shall we be assured that the Republic will live to confe again its blessings upon a people whose waywardness provided chastening rather than destruction."

THE NEW YORK DEMOCRACY.

Shortly after the result of the last election the State of New York was known to the country, we placed on record, in the Intelligencer of the 7th of November a declaration of the principles avowed by the Convention which had placed in nomination the successful candidate for the office

This declaration pledged the supporters of Governor Seymour "to continue to render the Government their sincere and united support in the use of all legitimate means to suppress the rebellion and to restore the Union as it was and maintain the Constitution as it is," and endorsed what is commonly known as the "Crittenden Resolution," which was re-affirmed by the Convention as containing a true exposition of the origin and objects of the war.

In his speeches during the canvass Gov. SEY-MOUR was most explicit in accepting the " platform of principles" on which he was nominated. In a speech delivered in the city of Brooklyn he held the following language:

"We are not only in favor of a thorough war policy, but we propose to bring this war to a speedy and successful conclusion. . . . They (the insurgents) have not contented themselves with the ballot, but have chosen the bayonet and the bullet to settle the question. Then with the bayonet and the bullet we must meet them. We did not want this war, but the men of the South made the bayonet and sword the arbiters of their doctrines, and, so far as the present is concerned, the sword must be the ar bter, and by it, with our own strong arms, we will strike vigorous blows for the life of the Constitution and the Flag. I wish that my voice could be heard throughout every Southern State. I would say, mistake not the conservative triumphs of the North. Listen not to the teachings of those who say that we are not true to the Unio true to the Constitution . . . Therefore, we tell you and the whole world that this great conservative party will rear up the shattered columns of the Union. We will rear it bigi er up, still nearer beaven than it was before, and from its lofty top and growing restness there sha ever wave your nation's flag, with every star and every stripe that have been placed there in the wonderful progress of our country; and then, whatever other men may say—I care not what—as for the conservative people of this country, and as for myself, other men may say as they please, but as for a division of this Union, and for breaking up that great alliance made by and under God's guidance, I never will consent to it. No, never as long as I have a voice to raise or a hand to fight for this our glorious

Such were the views frankly proclaimed by Gov. Seymour and his leading supporters before the election in New York. It was only the partisan, libel incident, unfortunately, to political discussion in our country, which sought to discredit these frank committals and bold avowals. For instance, in advance of the election, a New York paper spoke as follows:

"Gov. Seymour stands before the people and solicits their suffrages as an opponent of our Government—consuring it, criticising it, denouncing it, and seeking the overthrow of those who wield its authority and its power. He advocates conciliating the rebels instead of fighting them, off-ring them concessions, compromises, additional gustan tees for our good behavior, and such terms of peace as they may dictate. This is simply an ignominious surrender to the rebellion, diegraceful to the American character, degrading to the national honor, and utterly destructive to the integrity of the Union and the liberties of the Republic. It involves the confession that we are unable to cope with the South in the field; that they are our superiors, as they have always claimed to be; and that henceforth we admit them to the supremacy they have always

Now that Governor Seymour has entered on his functions as the Chief Magistrate of New York we hear no more of these misgivings as to his purposes or of similar misrepresentations as to his position. And the political friends believed to be most in his confidence have left no room to doubt that he still cherishes the opinions proclaimed by him at the outset of the canvass which resulted in his

Mr. John Van Buren in a recent speech has referred to this subject as follows :

"On every occasion Gov. Seymour declared to the full est extent his determination was, so far as in him lay, to aid the Government in a vigorous prosecution of the war, and to put down this rebellion by force of arms, that being well understood at that time as the only made by which this result could be accomplished. [Applause.] The election came and passed. It resulted in his success, and subsequently to that time those who were still carnest in the vigorous prosecution of the war determined to hold a meeting to concert measures to further that result. Such a weeting was recently held at the Cooper Institute in the city of New York. I met there with those who had supported a different ticket than myself, and I saw nothing in the declarations of the candidate that I had sustained in the past canvass—certainly, nothing in the declarations I had made during the pending of the canvass, to prevent my condially co-operating with everybody who believed the war an unrighteous rebellion and should be suppressed by the whole power of the Government. Such, fellow citizens, are the circumstances under which we now assemble, and you have heard from the gentlemen who have addressed you before me, the ressons why they think, and I have no you before me, the reasons why they think, and I have doubt the reason why you think it is important that every loyal man in the city of New York, should co-operate with every other loyal man in the State of New York for every effort to sustain the Government of the United States, wholly irrespective of party preferences, in putting down

DISPOSITION OF THE SLAVES. A letter from "PARSON BROWNLOW," dated at Nash ville on the 6th instant, among other things, says:

"I told the people of the North, in my speeches, as tho sands of them will recollect, what I now repeat—that is to say, one half of all the slaves in the secoded States will fight for their owners, and fight to perpetuate their own bondTHE STATUS OF SLAVERY IN THE INSUR-GENT STATES

It will be remembered by our regular readers that in the months of October and November last, after the first "Proclamation of Freedom" had been some weeks before the public, we reviewed its terms for the purpose of showing that, so far as appeared on its face, or so far as the President had developed his views in the premises, it contemplated rather an "expedient" for the occasion than "principle" for all time. Without pretending at all to forecaste what the President's action at any particular period would be, we cited his own language in support of the opinion that he was free, if he judged it proper or expedient, to suspend at any time the practical enforcement of his decree, which, being expressly based on the assumption of "military necessity," would fall to the ground with the disappearance of that neces-

These deductions resulted so naturally from the rinciples set forth by the President in promulgng his original proclamation that we supposed ourselves to be announcing any thing but novel propositions in merely giving shape and expression impugns, for it creates no issue outside of political to the logical aspects of slavery, as that institution and constitutional polemics. is viewed by Mr. Lincoln in its relation to the present war, and according to which he has announced the following maxims as the guide of his conduct : "What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do what I do about savery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe that what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be

We were not, therefore, prepared to witness the surprise then expressed by a few of our contemporaries at the inferences we drew from the avowed declarations of the President under this head, and just as little did we expect that our theoretical observations on the subject, fortified as they were by the text of the proclamation, would encounter opposition or dissent from any admirer of that manifesto.

Now, however, that this whole matter has come to be viewed in the calm light of history rather than through the refracting medium of a political enthusiasm, we are consoled to find that our reflections receive the assent of those who, on the grounds of their private wishes, might be most averse to entertain or to acknowledge them.

The New York Tribune having recently expressed the opinion as being undoubted "that any State might save its slaves by a prompt and thorough withdrawal from the rebellion," a correspondent, bearing the name of WILLIAM POTTS. and who, it seems, is loth to share this view, addressed it an inquiry as follows:

"As I read, those who were slaves formerly in the States affected by the President's proclamation of January 1, though not jet actually freed, are legally free—now and forever to remain free, and they cannot be re-enslaved by any power upon earth, save that of the man-stealer. Is it to be supposed that the Administration is prepared to buy allies with the price of living souls—to link itself with all that is infamous? Is it this which we are to expect from he Administration which we are upholding

To which the editor of the Tribune replies as fol-

arms and return to unconditional loyalty, and their several States to be thereupon recognised and accepted as members of the Federal Union, and suppose them the reupon to resfirm and re-enact the laws under which slaves are now reaffirm and re-enset the laws under which slaves are now held by them respectively, what is to override and subvert those laws within the sphere of their legitimate action? Suppose, even, that every slave now held in Georgia were actually set free, and that Georgia, having returned to loyalty and been again recognised as an equal member of the Union, should proceed to reduce them once more to slavery, what does Mr. Potts propose to do about it? We have not the smallest doubt that an ex-slave living in any Free State, who should be turned as a fugitive, might plead the President's proclamation and his virtual acceptance of its conditions by descring the rebels and adhering to the Union any one acting under its authority, could interpose between ride the constitution and laws of that State—she being peaceably, indisputably, loyally within the Union—and de leat the claim of the one to hold the other as his slave, we lo not understand. The President has not assumed to abolish the laws of any State—much less to forbid their re-enact-ment after the perfect restoration of the Union."

When we announced a similar doctrine some nonths ago, the statement seemed to wear an air of novelty in the eyes of the enthusiastic supporters of the "new policy." And if it be true, as the Tribune now says, that by his "proclamation of freedom" the President "has not assumed to abolish the laws of any State," insomuch that the "loyal blacks" of Georgia, even if actually liberated under the operation of the "edict of freedom." as enforced by our armies, could none the less be lawfully reduced to slavery again at the close of the war, it only remains to ask what good has been accomplished by this proclamation in the estimation of the Tribune? And is it not just to infer that when the high-raised hopes once based by sanguine political philosophers on the mere utterance of a "proclamation" are thus brought down to the same dead level with that of those who always doubted its efficacy, there will be a slight suspension of the invectives and imputations so ern States. He compels, by military law, the services of freely bestowed by the former on the latter a few the negroes as the services of the whites are on the point months ago, for no other reason, as it now appears, than that they were a little earlier in avowing THE PLANTATION LABORERS IN LOUISIANA opinions which have come to be shared by both?

The Proclamation of Freedom having served for a time to create division and dissension in the loyal States, it was only in its immediate or in its remote effect upon the slaves whom it "ordered and declared" to be free, that we could possibly look for any good resulting from its promulgation. Its immediate effect has certainly not been to produce that hegira of slaves from the service of their masters, and that rallying of "loyal blacks" within the Union lines, which we were assured by the Tribune and its coadjutors would be the consequence of a "proclamation." No fact is now more incontestible than that the "loyal blacks" are either apathetic to the summons of the President or that they cannot avail themselves of its benefits if so inclined. In point of immediate effect, the proclamation is admitted, on all hands, to be a nullity.

As to its ultimate effect, nothing more need be said to p int its inefficacy than is said by our New York contemporary in the paragraph above cited. It is there admitted that if the insurgent States It is there admitted that if the insurgent States would now consent to lay down their arms, or, we presume, if they shall do so at any subsequent day, largely cultivated this year in the sugar-growing districts." they may re-create the institute of slavery, using for its subjects the very persons "ordered and declared" to be free by edict of the President. It thus distinctly appears that whatever injury the in stitution of slavery shall receive in the war, it will be an injury resulting from the actual havor of military operations, or from the shock of arms discovered by the chamber of Commerce and Produce Exchange in securing clared" to be free by edict of the President. It military operations, or from the shock of arms dis-

turbing for a time the social arrangements of every community whose soil is made the theatre of

And since anti-slavery organs like the New York Tribune have thus come to adopt the views consistently entertained on this topic by conservative journalists, it becomes a question with the latter equally with the former whether the so-called proclamation of freedom" can any longer be said to present a point of difference or of controversy between those who alike profess to uphold the Government in the present crisis. In fact, the " proelumation" has not been found to be any thing more than a dead letter, and as such it has been buried out of sight by the actualities of the vivid struggle in which the country is engaged. If, in the estimation of those who were the original friends of the "new policy," the country derives from it no aid in prosecuting the war, let not its opponents seek to endow it with an imaginary vitality merely for the sake of embarrassing the Government. A "war measure" which has proved so in operative and void needs only to be combatted on the ground of the theoretical principles which is

COLORED MOSAICS.

The New York Tribune complains that "four million Americans born-the natural, instinctive, implacable enemies of the slaveholders' rebellion-want to help save their country, and are repelled with stinging insult by a faction which, making loud professions of loyalty, does the work of treason."

Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, having been au thorized by the War Department to raise a brigade of negro soldiers in the old Bay State, has found it easier to get this permission than to get the recruits. Having drained New England of its "colored volunteers," he has, we see it stated, opened recruiting offices at New York, Philadelphia, Fortress Monroe, and even as far Southwards as Key West. A New York contemporary expresses the fear that his crimping sergeants will shortly turn up in Egypt, competing with Napoleon for the next

Gen. Hunter, in command at Hilton Head, South Carolina, writes as follows to a friend, under date of the 11th

"Finding that the able-bodied negroes did not enter the military service as rapidly as could be wished, I have resolved, and so ordered, that all who are not regularly employed in the Quartermaster's Department or as offi-cers' servants, shall be drafted.

"In drafting them I was actuated by several motives— the controlling one being that I regard their services as a

military necessity, if this war is to be ended in the triumpl of the Union arms. Subordinate to this consideration, or the Union arms. Subordinate to this consideration, I regard the strict discipline of military life as the best school in which this people can be gradually lifted toward our higher civilization; and their enrollment in the negro brigade will have the further good effect of rendering mere servile insurrection, unrestrained by the laws and usages of war, less likely. If any further argument were needed to justify my course, it would be found in my deep conviction that freedom (like all other blessings) can never be justly appreciated except by men who have been taught justly appreciated except by men who have been taught the sacrifices which are its price."

In an address on the Life and Times of Toussain Ouverture, delivered in New York on Wednesday last y Mr. Wendell Phillips, he ascribed to this black warrior and statesman a place on the roll of fame above that of every other name in the world's history for all time past and for fifty years to come. He said :

"Fifty years hence, when impartial history gets written, some Pintarch of later days will put Phocion for the Greek, and Brutus for the Roman, Hampden for England, Fayette for France, and choose Washington as the bright, consummate flower of our earlier civilization, and Fremont the ripe fruit of our noonday, [thunders of annuance I then diagrams his record in contraction of the contra spplause,] then dipping his pencil in sunlight, will write in the clear blue above them all the name of the soldier, the statesman, the martyr, Toussaint L'Ouverture."

The late anti-negro root in Detroit was, says the Spring field Republican, one of the bloodiest and most vindictive ever recorded. The occasion of the disturbance was ar attempt to lynch a negro, while being conveyed from the court-house to the jail. The provost guard succeeded in getting the prisoner safely into the jail, when some of them, irritated by the jeers and hoots of the crowd, fired several shots, instantly killing one man and seriously wounding saveral others. This middend the growd beyond description, and they immediately commenced a systema-tic attack on all the negroes in the vicinity, burning their houses over their heads, ferociously attacking old and young, men, women, and children, as they rushed out to escape the flames. All the mil tary companies of the city were called out, and the regulars at the fort and a regiment of volunteers at Ypsilanti were sent for. But before the services of the military could be brought into requisi-tion, the rioters ceased from very weariness, having burnt and destroyed thirty-five houses, mu ilated some of the negroes, and rendered two hundred homeless. The military have since held possession of the city, and the negro population are fleeing to Canada or to the woods, from population are fleeing to Canada or to the woods, from fear of the threats made to exterminate them, especially by the Germans, who are much enraged at the death of a untryman, caused by the first fire of the provost guard.

The Boston Transcript approves the conscription of the loyal blacks" who will not volunteer to fight for "Libery and Umon." It says:

"It is simply a question whether a certain number of whites should be sacrificed in order to keep a certain number of blacks in subjection, when the announcement tha the blacks are not slaves, and can properly be armed and disciplined for the general purposes of the war, would save the same number of whites from death by disease in the samps, or by death on the field of battle. The question as our readers will perceive, is entirely independent of the controversy respecting the rights of 'persons of African descent.' To every white father, son, nephew, and hus band of the Loyal States it is a practical matter whether band of the Loyal States it is a practical matter whether he happens to be a Republican or a Democrat. 'Will you shed your own blood exclusively, or will you allow a black man to aid you or to be your substitute?'—that is now the question. And this does not depend on the willingness of the Southern negro to fight for his liberty. Gen. Hunter, in the Southern Department, has already carried into effect the right principle. He has inaugurated the system of conscription among the freed blacks, as it is now on the point of being established among the whites of the North f being compelled by constitutional law."

Evening Post speaks in favorable terms of the arrangement recently made by Gen. Banks for the employment of the slaves on the plantations, under the direction and superintendence of their respective owners, and anticipates from it good and lucrative crops of the leading staples. Here is what he says :

"Inquiry among those connected with the planting interest convinces me that the arrangement entered into between Gen. Banks, in behalf of the Government, and the negroes on one side, and the planters on the other, really works telerably well. A great many planters were dissatisfied with the results of their convention and conferences with the commanding General, but they were unwil-ling to make allowances in conformity with the state of affairs here, and many insisted on legal rights they had themselves, by direct acts against the Government, ren-dered invocable. But here there is a conformity with the state of fered impossible. But where they have commerced work, proposing to make the best of creumstances, they are succeeding. In the parish of Assumption there are not more proposing to make the cest of c rounstances, they are succeeding. In the parish of Assumption there are not more than ten plantations that are not worked under the contract agreed on by Gen. Banks and the convention. The provost marshals generally take care to inform the negroes that the Government will not support them in idleness; that they must work either for the United States or their maeters; and thereupon a large proportion return voluntarily to their homes, to work for wages and to work well The plentations suffer about as much, and often more, for lack of mules than from want of negroes. The Government has taken up a great number of wn use, and the usual sources, Kentucky and Tennessee

ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, MARCH 18,-A very interesting meeting

EMANCIPATION WITH COMPENSATION.

We referred several days ago to the opinion expressed by the St. Louis Democrat (a leading Republican raper of the West) to the effect that but for the opposition of the Democratic and "Union" members the bill pending in Congress, upon its adjournment, for the appropriation of fifteen million dollars to pay for the slaves of Missouri, would have become a aw. Our contemporary added that the Republicans were, with rare exceptions, in favor of the measure, and would triumphantly have passed it had the opportunity presented itself. This disposition, it thought, was exhibited in both Houses by the passage of bills for the same purpose, although differing unfortunately in some of their provisions.

Without particularly controverting this opinion, ve intimated our conviction that "the policy of the President, proposing to aid any State in the work of emancipation by appropriating money for the purpose of purchasing slaves, had but very few zealous friends in either House of Congress or in any party," at the late session, and we have placed distinctly before our readers the facts and considerations which justified this impression, and on the strength of which we made our statements under

We observe that our Republican contemporary of St. Louis, as the result doubtless of later and more correct information derived from its political friends, has come to share with us in the opinion that the President's practical policy on this subject received only a lukewarm support from his political friends, notwithstanding the triumphant manner in which they passed the "resolution" expressive of a "sentiment" in favor of that policy, and in which they pledged the United States to aid any State in the work of emancipation. The St. Louis journal, in some later observations devoted to the subject, in its number of the 9th instant, remarks as follows:

"We have no apology to offer for Congress on account of its non-fulfillment of a solemn pledge made to Missouri to furnish material aid towards the accomplishment of emancipation. It was a palpable breach of faith. Congress, upon the recommendation of the President, made the proposition, and Missouri accepted it, giving the understanding the binding force of a contract. ing the binding force of a contract. It would have been infinitely better had Congress never made the show of liberality it did, when it failed so completely of the fulfillberality it did, when it failed so completely of the fulfill-ment. Nothing could have so forcibly exhibited to the world a want of capacity in the Republicans of the last Congress to grapple efficiently with the issues of the times as their action upon the Misrouri question. They had the opportunity of giving freedom, immediately and uncondi-tionally, to a territory as large as New England, and natu-raily much more valuable, already containing a million and a quarter of inhabitents, and represented by nine members in the lower House of Congress, and which, upon being divorced from slavery, would have proved one of the most staunch Republican States in the Union, having, ar it is, elected a majority of Republicans to the next Congress. staunch Republican States in the Union, having, at it is, elected a majority of Republicans to the next Congress. The golden fruit hung ripe and ready to be gathered, and fully within their grasp, but so feeble was the effort made by the Republican members of Congress to appropriate it that it slipped entirely away from their hands. Nor was Misseuri all that was at stake. The example which might have been set in her case would in a short space of time have brought Maryland, and perhaps Kentucky and Tennassee, to the door of slavery's prison-house, pleading to be nessee, to the door of slavery's prison-house, pleading to be let out into the light and luxury of freedom. What effect the bad faith of Congress towards Missouri may have to relard a consummation so devoutly to be wished, it is im-possible to tell, but it cannot be otherwise than great. For this result the Republican members of Congress stand fairly and immediately responsible. Not one of them but should hang his head in shame when he meets a liberty loving constituency.

"We do not pretend to say that the non-action of Con

gress by any means fatally defeats emancipation in Missouri, but it is easy to divine how thoroughly it embarras ses the friends of the measure. To see what capital it gives to its foes, we quote a brief extract from the Mis-souri Republican, the leading Miss uri slavery journal of this State, when commenting upon the course which Con-

"A measure cl imed to be a certain remedy for our present ills of State is not only not adopted, but is not even seriously discussed by the peculiar personal and political friends of the President. All this, with the knowledge that after March President. All this, with the knowledge that after March 4th, 1863, it would be everla tingly too late to talk of a re-newal of Congressional efforts to aboli helavery in the States! Thus have the Aboli ionists and Republicaus shown their in-capacity to grasp and bring to practical ends a topic which while cut of power, they have for years made their political stock in trade. Slavery must be abolished, if abolished at all, by the slaveholders." "The one fact-the bal faith of Congress-al'uded to gives enough show of truthfulness to the fallacy of the above argument to make it exceedingly difficult to remove

from the popular mind the impression it is calculated to produce. This weapon should not have been placed in the bands of our enemies by our friends. The President urged action upon them with an earnestness and force of argument which should have been irresistible; they decided by resolution to concur in his recommendation; they knew when their session would terminate and the necessity for promptitude, and yet suffered the measure to fail through pure inattention. It is true that the measure would nevertheless have passed but for the factious opposition of the Democrats, but the Republicans understood the dispo-sition of the Democrats well enough to have anticipated the result that followed."

THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

The bill amendatory of the act creating the Court of Claims, by providing for the appointment of two additional Judges and the finality of its decisions, with an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States in all cases where the amount in controversy exceeds three thousand dollars, also provides that "the said Court of Claims shall hold one annual session, commencing on the first Monday in Octo ber in each year, and continuing so long as may be necessary for the prompt disposition of the business of the court." It is further provided that the Supreme Court shall prescribe the regulations under which appeals are to be brought before it; and as that Court has adjourned without having had time to make any rules under this head for the guidance of parties who might desire to take an appeal from any decision of the Court of Claims, and as the act requires, moreover, that such appeals shall be taken within ninety days after the rendition of any judgment, it is obvious that the Court could not now consistently proceed to the trial of causes, any one of which might involve an appeal to the Supreme Court.

It is in this view, as we understand, that the Court of Claims, at its session held yesterday, adionrned to the first Monday in May next, being the 4th day of that month, when it will reconvene for the purpose of revising the rules of practice preliminary to the opening of the Court at its regular term as prescribed by law. These rules will be duly promulged after they shall have been determined by the Judges.

We make this announcement for the information of the profession as well as of elaimants who may have business which they propose to bring before have business which they propose to bring before the Court at the opening of its sessions on the first matter Gen. Sigel will not return to the Army of the Po-Monday in October next.

BRIEF AND TO THE POINT.

The Ohio Legislature has adopted the following resolution, offered by Mr. Flag, a Union Democrat, as a response to some petitions for an armistice and peace: " Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio,

That we will have no dissolution of the Union; that we will have no armistice; that we can fight as long as rebels and traiters can; that the war shall go on until law is restored; and we will never despair of the Republic."

A BRILLIANT CAVALRY EXPLOIT.

DEFEAT OF REBEL CAVALRY.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. A most brilliant cavalry fight occurred yesterday beyond Kelly's Ford. A reconnoissance, under command of Gen. Averill, forced a passage over the river in the face of a determined resistance by a considerable body of rebel sharpshooters, who were covered by houses, rifle-pits, and a dry mill-race, with an abattis in front. The ford admit-

swollen and rapid. Arriving on the south side of the river, our cavalry charged the rebels in their entrenchments, killing and capturing nearly the entire force, besides securing a large number of horses, picketed near by, a short distance from the shore.

ted but a single horseman at the time, and the stream was

Gen. Averill's command encountered the rebel cavalry, under Generals Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee, who had hasten ed from Culpeper to prevent our passage. They made some dashing charges upon our treops, who repulsed them and in turn charged them with fatal effect, using sabres only in the conflict. Whenever the enemy made a stand, they were immediately charged upon and routed from their positions with great loss.

The battle lasted five hours, and was a series of charges and hand-to hand conflicts, resulting in the enemy's falling

The force was about two thousand on each side. The enemy at last took refuge behind an entrenched battery, our miles from the ford, finked by r.fl--pits and abattis.

Gen. Averill, having accomplished his object, and secured his prisoners, the wounded on both sides, and a large number of horses, recrossed the river without attack or demonstration on the part of the rebels, who were so badly whipped that they could not follow to annoy bim. Among the prisoners is Major Breckinridge, cousin of the traitor John C. Brecking.dge. The prisoners characterize the conflict on our part as one of the ablest and most gallantly fought cavalry raids of the war, and admit that their own troops were totally demoralized by the gallant sabre charges

About eighty prisoners have been brought in. The wounded of the enemy bear sufficient marks that the sabre was the only weapon used on our side.

REPORTED UNION REPULSE AT PORT HUDSON.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF MEXICO.

EXCHANGE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

FORT MONROE, MARCH 18 .- Col. Ludlow has just returned from City Point, having completed arrangements for the exchange of all political prisoners. Those in Richmond are released to day; those in Salisbury will be reeased next week. There was some fighting at Blackwater yesterday. The

particulars are not received. The rebels attacked Newbern last Friday and were defeated.

Richmond papers of the 17th say that Rear Admiral Faragut attacked Port Hudson and was repulsed. The steam Mississippi, it is stated, was burnt, and Farragut went lown the river in his flag ship disabled. The laud force did not join in the attack.

The City of Mexico has been captured by the French.

SUCCESSFUL SCOUT IN TENNESSEE.

MURFREESBORO, MARCH 16, 1863. Major Gen. Halleck, Commander-in-Chief:

I have the pleasure to report the gallant conduct of our avalry under the brave Col. Mintey. They drove the rebel cavalry wherever they met them, captured one of their camps, seventeen wagons, forty-two mules, and one hundred and fourteen prisoners. They used the sabre where the carbine would delay.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major General.

LATE NEWS FROM GALVESTON.

NEW YORK, MARCH 18 -Advices per steamer Union state that the rebels have erected formidable batteries at Galveston, mounted with guns taken from the Harriet Lane and the Westfield.

The United States ficet off Galveston on the 28th of February consisted of the steam-frigate Brooklyn and four gunboats. On the 12th the Brooklyn threw a into the rebel fort on Pelican Island, and on the 24th did likewise to the town, retting it on fire in three places. The flames, however, were soon suppressed.

The Harriet Lane is up the river seventy miles, and is eing iron-clad. It is not probable our fleet, as at present costituted, will undertake any thing against the city.

THE WAR ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

Gen. ELLET's Marine Brigade arrived safely at Cairo on Saturday last, and will proceed immediately to perform the important duty for which it was organized, that of keeping the Mississippi river open for navigation by driving from its banks the numerous marauders who for months past have been displaying their murderous traits by crouching behind bluffs and firing upon unarmed steamers. The brigade is composed of infantry, artillery, and cavalry, whose movements are made more rapid by the steamers. upon which, for the greater portion of their time, it is understood they will be quartered. Such a command bas long been needed on the Western waters, and from the well known qualifications of Gen. Ellet and the experience of his men successful results can be anticipated.

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE. TRENTON, MARCH 18 -The peace resolutions passed

to-day in the House by a vote of yeas 38, nays 13, after a very animated debate. The million foan bill was also

POLITICS IN PENNSYLVANIA. HARRISBURG, MARCH 18 -The Union State Committee

have called a State Convention, to be held at Pitteburg on the 5th of July, to nominate a candidate for Governor and a Judge of the Supreme Court. They also passed a resolution recommending the organization of Union Leagues in every legislative district. DISHONEST CLERK.

New York, MARCH 18.—A clerk recently employed by Weston, Dortic, & Co. absconded yesterday with ten thousand dollars in gold. His name is Young. NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

New York, March 18.—114 A. M.—First Board—U. S. Coupon 6's, 1881, 1044; 7-30 Treasury Notes, 1064; Certificates, 994; Demand Notes, 1534; Gold, 1534.

MILITARY NEWS.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, under date of the 16th instant, communicates the following:

"Gen. FREMONT had a long interview with the President to-day. It is expected that a command will be arranged for him this week, his frieuds having been promised that he should forthwith be assigned to active service. The delay in fulfilling this promise is believed to be attributable to others than the President and Secretary of

"Gen. Sigel, is still here, awaiting the President's an-"Gen. Sigel, is still here, awaiting the President's answer to his letter of resignation. He does not haunt the hotels, but is hard at work sludying military authorities and framing plans of organization and campaign. The President is strongly urged by his friends, in person and by letter, to give him a command adequate to his rank and ability. He has extended his leave of absence ten days—a circumstance indicating a disposition to give his claims a favorable consideration. The probabilities at present would seem to be that whatever may be done in the

The assignment of Major General STARL to the command of the cavalry in front of Washington renders it m probable than it appeared to be a few days ago that Gen. Sigel's old corps will be given to Major General SCHURZ, who is now sick in Philadelphia."

Another letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer, dated the 17th instant, says:

"Gen. BURNSIDE, baving been assigned to his new de partment, will at ouce assume comm

Gen. CADWALADER has been assigned to the con of the Second Corps, Army of the Potomsc."